

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee
of the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Lady and Gentlemen,

The report is again a short one as advised by the Ministry of Health. The figures show that the health generally of the people has been maintained in spite of war conditions and no doubt a great part of the credit for this is due to the Government's policy of giving additional protective foods to expectant and nursing mothers and to growing children.

There was little infectious disease during the year apart from increased prevalence of measles and whooping cough. The birth rate was higher than in recent years and the death rates from various causes show no material alteration in trend. It will be noted that the Registrar General's estimate of civil population is considerably less in 1944 than his last published figure.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FAIRLEY.

County Hall,

Newport, I.W.

September, 1945.

Throughout this Report the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1944.

Area.	Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales: Rate per 1000
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population	17.6	19.3	20.2	17.1	17.0	13.0	18.1	17.6
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	11.9	28.1	16.6	17.1	6.0	88.2	20.35	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births	40.2	28.9	39.4	45.3	6.0	48.4	35.1	46.0
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth— ...								
(a) From Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
(b) From other causes	—	—	—	4	—	1	5	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1	—	—	2	1	—	4	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crude death-rate per 1000 population	14.8	14.6	14.4	19.2	17.8	18.1	16.2	11.6
Population — Registrar General's Estimate	14110	14350	17540	16740	9770	4760	77270	

During the war there were movements of population on a considerable scale and as the actual figures could not then be published it is of interest to note that the Registrar General's estimate of Island population for mid year 1944 was 77,270 as compared with 85,800 in 1939. The last census was in 1931 and the estimated present populations are compared in the following table with the figures for 1931 and 1940.

Sanitary Authority.	Population at 1931 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for:—	
		1940	1944
I.W. Rural District	16538	15930	14110
Cowes U.D.	16022	16670	14350
Newport M.B.	18864	19380	17540
Ryde M.B.	18472	17530	16740
Sandown-Shanklin U.D.	11615	11060	9770
Ventnor U.D.	6943	6000	4760
Whole County	88454	86570	77270

The number of live births was 1,396 (1,405) giving a birth rate of 18.1 per 1,000 population. This is a higher rate than in any year since 1920. One hundred and twenty-three or 8.8 per cent. of the births were illegitimate as against 112, 83 and 91 in the three previous years. Forty-nine infants died in the first year of life giving an infant mortality rate of 35.1 per 1,000 live births (34.4). The rate for the whole country was 46. Among the illegitimate infants the mortality rate was 73. The crude death rate of civilians was 16.2 per 1,000 population compared with 16.7 and 16.3 in the two previous years. The deaths of persons over 64 years of age constituted 66.1 per cent of the total deaths (66.3 and 64.7). The deaths from tuberculosis numbered 44 (39) of which 37 were from pulmonary disease (32) and 7 from non-pulmonary disease. Deaths from cancer numbered 184 (159 and 166). Diseases of the heart and circulatory system were the cause of death in 420 persons (435 and 421).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There was no material alteration in the general provision of health services in the Island.

National Health Insurance.—The number of insured persons in the Isle of Wight County Insurance Committee's Register in 1944 averaged 34,486 against 33,939 in 1943.

Blind Persons' Act, 1920 and 1938.—There were 142 blind persons registered in the Island at the end of 1944, of whom one was under school age, three were between five and 16 years of age, 27 between 16 and 50 and 111 over 50.

Public Health Act, 1936.—Section 187.—Registration of Nursing Homes.—At the beginning of the year, 30 Homes were registered under the Nursing Homes' Registration Act, and during the year four applications for registration were received. Nine registrations were withdrawn during the year, one because the holder left the Island, one wished to close the Home and seven in continuation of the policy to keep the register a live one, because they had not been taking patients for some time. At the end of the year there were 25 Nursing Homes registered, five for maternity cases only, 13 for maternity and other patients and seven for non-maternity cases. Thirty-three inspections were made during the year.

Public Education in Health.—Thirty-four lectures on health matters were given by the medical officers to various organisations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE II.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

District.	New Milk.	Other Samples.	Total.	Remarks.
Bembridge ...	3	—	3	
Blackwater ...	1	—	1	
Carisbrooke ...	4	—	4	
Chalc ...	2	—	2	
Cowes ...	5	6	11	
East Cowes ...	1	2	3	
Freshwater ...	6	2	8	
Godshell ...	1	—	1	
Lake ...	1	—	1	
Newport ...	6	8	14	
Nettlestone ...	2	—	2	
Newchurch ...	1	—	1	
Northwood ...	5	—	5	
Parkhurst ...	2	—	2	
Porchfield ...	1	—	1	
Ryde ...	10	5	15	
Sandown ...	4	6	10	
Seaview ...	2	2	4	
Shanklin ...	4	2	6	
Shalfleet ...	1	—	1	
St. Helens ...	1	2	3	
Totland ...	3	1	4	
Ventnor ...	10	7	17	
Wroxall ...	3	—	3	
Yarmouth ...	6	4	10	One milk case fined in court, £2 and 14/6 costs. Two milk prosecutions; cases dismissed. Sausage preservative not declared. Fined £1 in court
Whippingham	2	—	2	
	*87	47	134	

*This number includes four samples of milk which were broken in transit.

ISLE OF WIGHT C.C. *MOH Report 1944*

Dr Nicol 207 SR 30 MAR 1955 ³¹ MAR 1955



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29498697>

The number of samples examined by the Public Analyst was 130, of which 83 were milk. Eighty of the milks were first samples and three were second samples. Three of the first samples and one second sample were certified to be below the minimum standard fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, i.e., 3.7 per cent. of the first samples (none in 1943, 3.0 per cent. in 1942 and 3.6 per cent. in 1941). Of the three first samples which were below standard, one contained 20.2 per cent. added water, a second sample from the same source was genuine. The vendor was fined £2 and 14s. 6d. costs. Another of the non-genuine samples was deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent. and a further milk from the same source was 4.0 per cent. deficient. Proceedings were taken in respect of both samples but the magistrates dismissed the case. The third non-genuine sample was deficient in non-fatty solids in milk—equivalent to 2.4 per cent. added water but souring had proceeded too far to obtain a freezing point test to determine whether the deficiency in non-fatty solids was natural or otherwise. A further sample was found to be genuine and no proceedings were taken. Forty-four of the milks were above average composition, 32 average and seven below average. Six of the milk samples contained visible dirty debris. Seven of the samples were sour when received by the Analyst.

Of the 47 non-milk samples, 24 were sausage meat, 10 butter, five cooking fat, six margarine, one lard and one of whisky. These were genuine with the exception of one sample of sausage meat which was found to contain sulphur dioxide preservative in permissible amount but the presence of preservative was not declared as it ought to have been. The defendant was fined £1 for failing to display the required notice.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-1941.

The holders of licences as Tuberculin Tested producers numbered 15 at the end of 1943 and 24 at the end of 1944 and the Accredited producers numbered 59 and 68. Seven producers transferred from the Accredited to the Tuberculin Tested roll during the year and there were six fresh additions. Four producers surrendered their T.T. licences because they wished to retain in their herds a number of animals which reacted to the tuberculin test; they now hold Accredited licences. Fourteen fresh licences were granted to Accredited producers and four were re-instated on the register. Six Accredited producers surrendered their licences during the year, in five of the cases the reason being that they had given up their farms and in the other case on account of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease necessitating the destruction of all the animals in the herd.

The herds of 12 of the 24 Tuberculin Tested producers are on the register of Attested Herds kept by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

To ensure that these milks reach the required standard of bacteriological cleanliness, samples are examined periodically. In the case of clean milks which pass the tests, the samples are taken as far as practicable each month in the case of Tuberculin Tested producers, and every other month in Accredited. If a milk is unsatisfactory additional follow up samples are taken.

The number of samples examined last year was 714 (449), 239 Tuberculin Tested and 475 Accredited. Of these, 46 Tuberculin Tested samples and 107 Accredited failed to pass the tests.

Mr. I. Friend, Animal Husbandry Officer of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, is informed of failures as they occur and he visits the farms and advises on the milking methods. If successive samples continue to fail, the conditions under which the licence is issued are not being complied with and the registration is withdrawn. In no case was this necessary during the year 1944.

Mr. Randle, the Veterinary Inspector to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has kindly supplied the following information which shows the position in May, 1945. He points out that the figures should be taken as approximate only and are subject to seasonal variation because less milk is sent to the I.W. Creamery for heat treatment during the holiday season when many visitors have to be supplied. The number of dairy herds on the Island is approximately 620. The milk is used privately in about 70 of these, and is sold from about 550 herds. About 300 of these milks are heat treated so it is calculated that there are on the Island about 250 herds whose raw milk is sold to the public. Some of these are sent to the mainland and our primary concern will be to ensure the safety of those sold on the Island. When allowance is made for the Tuberculin Tested and Attested herds and for other herds which to Mr. Randle's knowledge may be taken as "good" herds and free from tuberculosis, there will be about 200 herds whose raw milk is retailed here. Your Committee is of opinion that these milks should be tested periodically for the presence of tubercle bacilli and we are endeavouring now to make arrangements to have these tests carried out. It is hoped that a sample from each of these herds will be examined once a year except in the case of milk supplied to children in schools where the test will be repeated each six months.

The total number of animals officially tested in T.T. and Attested herds during 1944 was 1416 of which 48 reacted to the tuberculin test and were removed from the herds.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 29 animals were slaughtered during 1944; 1 of these was from a T.T. herd, 8 from Accredited herds and 20 from Non-Designated herds.

The animals in all the herds on the Island are inspected clinically by Mr. Randle as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested producers, about 24 herds—once every six months.

Accredited producers,

- (a) Heat treated, about 34 herds—once a year.
- (b) Not heat treated, about 34 herds—once every three months.

Non-Designated.

- (a) Heat treated—once a year.
- (b) Not heat treated—twice a year if possible.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(CIVILIANS ONLY)

TABLE III.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE 52 WEEKS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1944.

	Isle of Wight Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Scarlet Fever	36	14	36	15	9	6	116 (125)
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (9)
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (2)
Pneumonia	1	10	3	—	2	4	20 (29)
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	2	3	1	2	12 (15)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	1	—	—	—	2 (2)
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Erysipelas	2	—	3	1	1	1	8 (8)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	—	—	—	2 (6)
Measles	153	66	138	305	168	145	975 (426)
Whooping Cough	12	59	82	103	44	16	316 (19)
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	— (—)
Malaria Relapse	—	—	—	1	—	—	1 (—)
Brucella Abortus Infection	1	—	—	—	—	—	1 (—)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	14	31	16	15	19	108 (103)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	3	5	6	4	—	20 (16)
Totals	224	168	302	450	244	193	1581 (760)

There were 1,581 notifications of infectious diseases compared with 760 in 1943, the rise being due to increased prevalence of measles and whooping cough. There were four deaths from whooping cough, none from measles. Scarlet fever notifications numbered 116 (125) : the disease was mild in type and there were no fatal cases. There were no cases of enteric fever. Influenza is not notifiable and our information from head teachers showed that there were very few absences from school on account of this disease but 13 deaths were ascribed to it. Twenty notifications were received of primary or influenzal pneumonia (29). The number of deaths from pneumonia—all forms—was 28. There were two cases of cerebro spinal fever with one death. No others notifications were received of disease of the central nervous system but one death was due to acute infectious encephalitis. There was one case of undulant fever (*Brucella abortus*) in the rural district.

There were no cases of diphtheria (9). Immunisation of children against diphtheria has been actively continued in schools for school children and at the welfare centres for those under school age. The percentage of children immunised at the end of the year was approximately as shown in the following table :—

	Under 5 years.	5 to 14 years.
Cowes	24.6	77.2
Newport	39.1	87.6
Ryde	25.8	67.0
Sandown-Shanklin	44.7	79.2
Ventnor	25.3	70.3
Isle of Wight Rural District	33.7	78.2

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE IV.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
1—	—	—	2	5	—	—	1	1
5—	1	1	4	5	—	—	1	—
10—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—	4	8	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—	12	7	—	1	4	—	—	—
25—	23	15	—	1	3	6	—	1
35—	14	12	—	—	1	5	—	—
45—	4	4	—	—	3	1	—	—
55—	7	4	1	—	7	3	1	—
65 and upwards	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals 1944	69	52	9	15	20	17	4	3
Totals 1943	63	48	13	9	18	14	2	5

The new cases shown in Table IV include all the primary notifications and also any new cases coming otherwise to the notice of the Medical Officer during the year. These last numbered 43, 26 being transfers from other areas (18) the death returns gave the first information in seven and 10 cases were re-instated on the register, nine because they returned to the Island and one case previously written off the register as "recovered" because the disease again became active.

The primary notifications numbered 102 (101 in each of the two preceding years) so the total number of new cases was 145. One hundred and twenty one of them suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis (111) and 24 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (22).

There was again an increase in new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis over the previous year. This year there were 10 more cases notified (6 males and 4 females) and five deaths more than in 1943. From non-pulmonary tuberculosis there were seven deaths (7) making a total of 44 deaths from tuberculosis of all forms (39).

The trend of tuberculosis during the war is shown in these figures :—

	NEW CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1938	80	26	41	9
1939	88	26	33	9
1940	76	24	44	6
1941	67	33	35	5
1942	96	36	30	10
1943	111	22	32	7
1944	121	24	37	7

TABLE V.—Summary of Tuberculosis Registers showing that there were 530 cases on the Registers on the 1st January and 564 on the 31st December, 1944.

Number of Patients.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1943	227	166	66	71	293	237
Added during 1944 (new cases)	49	33	7	13	56	46
Cases removed from other areas	13	13	—	—	13	13
Old cases left re-admitted	5	3	—	1	5	4
Old 'Cured' „ „	—	1	—	—	—	1
Old 'Mistaken diagnosis' re-admitted	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Total	294	216	73	85	367	301
Removed to other areas during 1944	19	14	2	6	21	20
Removed—'Lost sight of'	3	2	1	1	4	3
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed	1	2	—	—	1	2
Removed from Register as being 'Cured'	2	4	3	5	5	9
Died during 1944	18	15	2	2	20	17
Died from other diseases	1	—	—	1	1	1
Totals to be removed from Register	44	37	8	15	52	52
Number on Register at the end of 1944	250	179	65	70	315	249

Note—This table does not include the deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis and therefore not on the registers.

The number of observation and nursing visits paid to tuberculous patients by the district nurses was 1,213 against 977 and 1,312 in the two previous years.

On the dispensary books there were 421 (396) patients at the end of the year, 326 of whom were suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 95 from other forms of the disease ; 70 were children under 15 years of age and 351 were adults. In addition 157 persons were under observation at the end of the year for the purpose of diagnosis, making a total of 578 on the dispensary books.

The dispensary work, examination of contacts and X-ray work were substantially increased during the year. The number of attendances at or in connection with the dispensaries was 1,651 (774) and the number of new persons examined was 572 (323). One hundred and eighty four of these last were contacts as against 82 in the previous year. Twenty-seven were patients transferred from other areas ; seven who had been seen previously and who had been "lost sight of" or left the Island, returned and 538 were new attendances. Of the 541, 82 were found to be tuberculous, 44 men and 27 women, and 11 of the children, five boys and six girls. Seventy one suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis and 11 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom two were adults (one male and one female) and nine were children, four boys and five girls.

The number of X-ray examinations made during the year under the tuberculosis scheme was 1,284 (870 in 1943) ; 912 of them for diagnosis or as a guide to treatment and 372 of contacts. Nearly all these examinations were made at Osborne by kind permission of the House Governor but in July your Committee decided to purchase a powerful X-Ray Unit to be fixed at St. Mary's Hospital. This is a Watsons "Roentgen IV" apparatus with rotating anode tube and all necessary equipment. It was not until June, 1945, that the new plant was in working order. Dr. E. Gordon Barker, D.M.R.E., who had been doing the Council's work on a sessional basis was appointed part-time Radiologist in July, 1944.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1945, a daily ration of milk was given to 18 patients, for periods varying from four days to 52 weeks. At the beginning of the year, nine patients were receiving grants, nine were added during the year, and at the end of the year, 11 were in receipt of milk.

The financial allowances made to tuberculous patients under the Ministry of Health's scheme amounted for the financial year ending 31st March, 1945, to £715 13s. 1d., these payments being distributed among 34 patients. Nine patients were receiving allowances on 1st April, 1945.

TABLE VI.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING 1944.

Sanatorium or Hospital.	Resident at beginning of year.	Admissions during year.	Discharges during year (inc. Deaths).	Remaining end of year.
Longford Sanatorium	47	168	164	51
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ...	7	1	6	2
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor ...	4	*23	22	5
Papworth Village Settlement	—	1	—	1
Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke ...	1	—	1	—
Nayland Sanatorium	—	1	—	1
Royal West Hants Hospital, Boscombe	—	2	2	—
Wingfield Morris Hospital, Oxford ...	—	1	1	—
Totals	59	197	196	60

*19 of these were admitted for a few days only.

Details of the patients treated at Longford Sanatorium, are as follows :—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
In residence on 31st December, 1943	17	16	14	47
Admitted during the year	61	52	55	168
Discharged during the year	58	45	55	158
Died during the year	3	3	—	6
In residence on 31st December, 1944	17	20	14	51

The average duration of stay of the 158 patients discharged was 113.3 days (109.2 in 1943) but this includes the observation cases as well as the patients who were tuberculous. Fifty of the 158 were admitted for observation for the purpose of diagnosis, five adults and 45 children and on discharge these were diagnosed as follows :—Four adults were classed as not tuberculous and one was kept under observation as being doubtful. Of the 45 children one had tuberculous glands, 24 were non-tuberculous and the remaining 20 were referred to the dispensary for further observation. The 108 patients who on admission were suffering from tuberculosis, remained in the Institution for 130.0 days on the average (130.5 days). Fifty seven of them were men, 41 women and 10 children. In 12 cases the disease was classified as quiescent on discharge ; 96 patients still had active disease although many of them had improved.

The number of patients in the Sanatorium sent by the London County Council at the beginning of the year was nine, 27 were admitted during the year and 23 were discharged, leaving 13 in the Sanatorium on the 31st December, 1944. These patients are included in the figures given above and they also include 16 children and 15 adults admitted from Portsmouth, one evacuee child for whom the Government accepted responsibility and two patients from other areas.

Longford Sanatorium has continued to be extremely useful in the Council's tuberculosis scheme and the fact that there were 48.6 patients nursed there on the average every day throughout the year indicates the amount of work done. It is true that it has not been easy at times during the war to keep the beds in full occupation owing to shortage of suitable nursing and domestic staff and difficulties and delay in getting equipment but the Matron and staff have overcome all these difficulties and deserve the greatest credit for their devoted services throughout a very trying period. Whereas some sanatoria throughout the country have been compelled by staff shortage to close beds, Longford has increased its accommodation ; at the beginning of the war 40 patients were taken, now 50 or more are treated and this has enabled us to admit patients without delay at a time when most sanatoria have long waiting lists, and at the same time we have nursed an increasing number of patients from other areas where there was shortage of beds ; a result which could not have been attained without the active interest of the Sub-Committee concerned and the constant efforts of the staff.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

These figures refer to civilian patients only. At the beginning of the year 67 patients were under treatment or observation ; 40 for syphilis (nine men and 31 women) 21 for gonorrhoea (two men and 19 women) and four women for non venereal conditions and two not finally diagnosed. During the year the number attending the centre for the first time was 193, of whom 46 were suffering from venereal disease, 16 from syphilis and 29 from gonorrhoea and one from soft chancre. In addition, 11 patients continued treatment here after previous attendance at centres elsewhere and nine old cases were readmitted. Apart from the 142 persons who were not suffering from venereal disease and 12 not diagnosed on the 31st December, the total number of patients receiving treatment during the year was 126. Sixty-eight were suffering from syphilis, 25 men and 43 women, 57 from gonorrhoea, 10 men and 47 women and one (male) from soft chancre. At the end of the year 63 patients were under treatment or observation, 32 for syphilis (8 men, 24 women), 20 for gonorrhoea (all women) and 11 for non-venereal conditions (three men and eight women).

The number of out-patients' attendances at the Medical Officer's sessions was 1,388 (220 men and 1,168 women). The attendances of women were nearly double those of the previous year indicating that women with venereal conditions are now appreciating the advice they get and are no longer so reluctant to attend the treatment centre.

Twelve patients (six) were admitted to hospital for treatment during the year, nine to St. Mary's Hospital, two to the County Hospital and one was in the Royal Free Hospital, London ; six of them suffered from syphilis, five from gonorrhoea, and one from urethritis ; five were females, and seven males of whom four were merchant sailors. All except one was discharged during the year, the duration of stay in 1944 amounting in all to 481 days (351).

Under Regulation 33B there were 12 persons (all women) notified as being the infecting partners of patients suffering from venereal disease. Three of these were already attending the treatment centre before this intimation was received and in three the name and address were not sufficient to enable the person to be traced. The other six were traced and before the end of the year five of them had attended the centre for examination and treatment.

CANCER.

The Registrar General's figures show that the deaths caused by cancer numbered 184 in 1944 compared with 159 in 1943 and 166 in 1942. In order to get further details of these deaths an examination was made of the local registrars' returns and after due allowance was made for three inward and four outward transfers, there were 187 deaths which might be ascribed to cancer, their age, sex, distribution, being as follows :—

Age.				25-39	40-49	50-55	55-60	65 and over.
Males	...	...	...	1	4	6	13	67
Females	...	...	...	3	7	9	10	67
Totals	...	...	...	4	11	15	23	134

Seventy-five of these deaths or 40.1 per cent. were in Institutions, 26 in the County Hospital, six in the Frank James Hospital, 26 in St. Mary's Hospital, one in the County Mental Hospital, one in the Home of Rest, Shanklin, and 15 in nursing homes.

The site of the disease is shown in the following table :—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Mouth and Pharynx	...	...	...	7	1	8
Digestive organs	...	...	...	56	38	94
Respiratory organs	...	...	...	14	5	19
Male genital organs	...	...	...	7	—	7
Female genital organs	...	...	...	—	47	47
Others	...	...	...	7	5	12
Totals	...	...	...	91	96	187

The number of females dying from cancer is 96 to 91 males but the proportion of females to males in the population would account for this. In all sites the number of males dying is greater than of females with the single exception of the genital organs and of the 47 deaths from cancer of these organs in women, the breast was affected in 19, the uterus in 19 (of which 14 were in the body and five in the cervix) and nine in other parts.

Half of the deaths were from cancer of the digestive organs ; in the proportion of three males to two females. Cancer of the mouth is always more common in males. The number of deaths certified as due to cancer of the lung has increased considerably all over the country in recent years ; this is partly accounted for by the more accurate diagnosis consequent on X-ray examination. Of the 19 deaths in which the respiratory organs were affected, the disease was in the lung in 14—11 males and three females ; and apart from two (one male and one female) age 75 years, all these deaths fell between the ages of 53 and 62.

Of these 187 deaths only 25 had been seen by Dr. Taylor, the Radiotherapist so far as our information goes, i.e., 14 per cent.

The Cancer Act, 1939, imposed on the County Council the duty of making arrangements to secure that the facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering from cancer are adequate and to submit its arrangements for the approval of the Minister of Health. The date on which a Council's arrangement must be submitted has been postponed because of the war and because complete and comprehensive schemes cannot be brought effectively into operation until more equipment and a sufficient number of hospital beds and of specialists are available but in the meantime a partial scheme has been approved by the Minister on condition that these interim arrangements will be supplemented or replaced by a more complete scheme when this is practicable. It is recognised also that any arrangements made now for dealing with cancer patients may have to be modified later on when Parliament has decided the National Health policy. Your Council's interim arrangements include agreements with the authorities of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital at Ryde and the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital at Southampton under which the Council pays the hospital charges for persons admitted from this area either for diagnosis or treatment. Patients may be sent also to other hospitals but as a rule when they need surgical treatment they are dealt with at the County Hospital, Ryde, and when radiation is needed they get this at the Southampton Hospital because neither radium nor deep X-ray treatment is available on the Island. Many patients require both operative treatment and radiation depending on the site and stage of the disease. As a general rule about half the patients suffering from cancer will benefit from radiation and in some sites the proportion is three fourths or more.

Three patients were in the Royal South Hants Hospital on the 1st January, 1944 ; two of these were re-admitted later in 1944 and there were 20 other admissions during the year, of which four were re-admissions and 16 were new cases. All these patients were discharged before the 31st December. The number of in-patient days was 409 (560).

Thirty-two patients attended the Southampton Hospital for out-patient treatment making 121 attendances in all. Of these 32 patients, three also received in-patient treatment, so the total number receiving radiation treatment during the year was 52.

In the Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde, at the beginning of the year there were four patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from cancer ; 52 were admitted during the year and two remained in hospital at the end of the year. Of these admissions one was found after observation not to be suffering from cancer.

During 1944 Dr. A. G. C. Taylor held 10 clinics at the County Hospital, Ryde, one each month, except that in April no clinic was held owing to dislocation in the boat service and there was no clinic in December. Fifty-one new patients were seen by him at these clinics during the year and the total number of attendances was 453.

Patients suffering from cancer are treated also in St. Mary's Hospital, Newport. These with few exceptions are admitted for nursing and palliative treatment only because they are in the later stages of the disease and some of them have previously received treatment in other hospitals. At the beginning of the year there were six such patients at the hospital ; 37 were admitted during the year, of whom one was a re-admission, six were discharged and 31 died in the hospital leaving six in hospital at the end of the year.

The other smaller voluntary hospitals at East Cowes and Shanklin also admit cancer patients for surgical treatment and so also do various nursing homes but as they are not included in your Council's scheme, no part of the cost of treatment in these institutions is paid by grant from public funds.

The general position showing the deaths during 1944 and the numbers treated at Southampton and in the County Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital is shown in Table VII.

TABLE VII.—RETURN OF CANCER DEATHS AND PATIENTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR, 1944.

SITE OF CANCER.	NUMBER OF DEATHS.	NUMBERS TREATED.		
		By Radiotherapy at Southampton Hospital.	In the County Hospital.	In St. Mary's Hospital.
Mouth and Pharynx	8	9	1	3
Digestive Organs— Rectum and Other	94	3	24	15
Respiratory Organs— Lung	14	—	1	2
Other	5	1	—	—
Male Genital Organs	7	1	4	2
Female Genital Organs— Breast	19	9	15	6
Uterus Body	14	1	3	3
Uterus Cervix	5	3	—	1
Others	9	1	—	1
Other Malignant Conditions— Rodent Ulcer... ..	1	12	1	—
Others	11	12	6	10
Totals	187	52 (a)	55 (b)	43 (c)

NOTES :—

a—Of these 52, 23 were in-patients and 29 were out-patients.

b—Only 3 of these patients received radiotherapy at Southampton and these are included in both Hospitals' figures. The case diagnosed as non-cancerous is not included.

c—Of the 43 patients, 3 had radiotherapy during the year at Southampton and are included in both Hospitals' figures.

It is clear from these figures that full advantage is not being taken of the facilities provided ; more patients would benefit from radiotherapy than are actually having it. This is no doubt due to a number of reasons ; perhaps the patient does not consult his or her doctor early enough or is apprehensive about attending hospital, or the private practitioner may not be referring patients at once to hospital for diagnosis or treatment. Dr. Taylor has not been able to attend at Ryde more often than once a month, when he sees new patients and follows up his old patients but as it is imperative to start treatment as early as possible medical practitioners should not wait for these monthly visits before sending to the County Hospital patients requiring treatment or suspected to be suffering from cancer. In order to avoid delay, such patients should be referred to the appropriate out-patient department forthwith so that the honorary surgeon or physician can arrange any necessary admission to hospital as early as practicable or alternatively it may be best to send them direct to Dr. Taylor at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital on Mondays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., or on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon ; bone sarcomas should attend on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This procedure will make the best use of our limited facilities but the position will not be entirely satisfactory until more hospital beds can be made available for cancer patients at the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital and additions have been made to the Specialist radiotherapeutic staff and equipment there. It is satisfactory to be able to report that at the time of writing (August, 1945) there is a prospect of the radio-therapist being able to make two visits each month to the County Hospital at Ryde.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

There were 1,757 (1,649) specimens examined during the year as follows :—Sputum for tubercle bacilli 512 (511), 189 positive 323 negative ; other specimens for tubercle bacilli one negative ; swabs for diphtheria bacilli 360 (483), 16 positive, 344 negative ; bloods for widal reaction four (10), all negative ; smears for gonococci 768 (476), 199 positive, 569 negative ; and other examinations 112 (166). In addition as stated in a previous section, 714 milk samples were examined.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.—No changes have been made in these services as described in the report for 1937.

Fifty-three midwives were in regular practice on the Island throughout the year, of whom five were employed at Parkhurst Institution, one at the County Hospital, 31 were employed by the district nursing associations on domiciliary midwifery, and 16 were in independent practice; nine of these and one engaged by a district nursing association were engaged entirely in nursing homes and not in domiciliary midwifery. Thirteen other midwives practised here for part of the year only. The total number notifying their intention to practise was 66. In supervising the work of these midwives, 138 routine and 12 special visits of enquiry were made.

The district nurse midwives are employed by the various district nursing associations who receive payments from the Council to cover their midwifery and other public work. When child birth takes place at home, some domestic help is necessary until the mother is able to resume her duties and great difficulty has been experienced during the war years in providing this help. Every effort has been made to find more home helps by advertisement, and through the local officers of the Ministry of Labour, the W.V.S. and the district nurses themselves, but with very disappointing results. While it is true that in most districts one or two women act as part-time home helps, very few are able and willing to undertake this work regularly and this shortage together with the crowded homes has resulted in a greater demand for institutional beds. In 1944 about 53.4 per cent. of the births were at home and 46.6 per cent. in hospitals or nursing homes whereas the percentages in 1939 were approximately 69.0 at home and 31.0 in institutions.

From the quarterly and annual returns made by midwives, i.e., those in independent practice as well as the district nurse midwives, the number of confinements attended by the midwives was 1,336. In about 720 of these a doctor was also engaged so the confinements attended as midwifery cases numbered about 616.

The midwives notified four still births, three deaths of child, 10 artificial feeding, five performing last offices, and 20 liability to be a source of infection, and they also sent notices of having summoned medical help in 193 instances. An analysis of the 193 cases shows that 20 were for the child, 172 were for the mother and one was for the mother and child. Of these last, 22 were for complications arising during pregnancy, 13 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage, and none for other causes during pregnancy, 124 were for causes arising during labour, i.e., 31 of these being for obstructed or delayed labour, four for abnormal presentations, 11 for haemorrhage, 71 for ruptured perineum and seven for other causes during labour; and 14 for causes arising after labour.

Financial assistance was granted towards the payment of home helps in 20 cases (21).

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Care.—There were 886 expectant mothers seen by the district nurse midwives an average of 5.6 times each and the independent midwives paid 2,572 visits to 499 expectant mothers which was an average of 5.1 visits per case. These figures are for the Island, including Ryde.

The number of expectant mothers who attended the ante-natal clinics was 336 (424) and a further 109 (200) mothers were seen by the Medical Officer apart from the clinics. Forty-five mothers were examined post-natally, 38 at the clinics and seven at home. It should be noted that the Ryde attendances are not included in these figures because the Ryde Borough is a separate Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

Maternity Cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst.—The crowded homes where the conditions are unsuitable for childbirth and the difficulty or impossibility in finding home helps have resulted in a greater demand for institutional beds for confinement cases and your Committee have recognised the fact that the present accommodation for nine or ten patients in the Maternity Pavilion at St. Mary's Hospital is too small and will be substantially increased when national conditions permit the building of new hospitals. There are more applicants for admission to this Ward than can be admitted; at times when there are enough nurses, the maternity patients have overflowed into one of the general wards but some expectant mothers have had to be refused admission. Shortage of staff, nursing and domestic, has been felt in St. Mary's Hospital, as in all other hospitals so at times there were not enough nurses to allow of the general wards receiving maternity patients.

Patients are admitted to St. Mary's Hospital when necessary for ante-natal treatment as well as for their confinements. The total number of maternity admissions during the year was 193 (155) of which 36 were Public Assistance cases, 156 were admitted through Public Health Committee and one A.T.S. patient was admitted as an E.M.S. case. These admissions include eight patients admitted twice and one admitted three times. Fifteen of the admissions were for ante-natal treatment only (16). There were 168 births in the hospital during the year, of which 10 (four) were still births and 158 (142) live births. Five infants died within 10 days of birth (five). The average duration of stay in hospital, of all the patients (confinement cases and ante-natal) was 18.5 days (17.3).

Caesarean Section.—Twenty-one of the births in St. Mary's Hospital were by Caesarean Section as compared with seven in the previous year, these being 12.8 per cent. and 4.8 per cent. respectively of the total hospital confinements. Caesarean operations were performed also in the three voluntary hospitals and in three nursing homes and the matrons have kindly supplied information showing that the number of Caesarean operations on the Island was 49 in 1944, which is 3.4 per cent. of the total live and still births; and in 1943 the number was 32 or 2.3 per cent. of all the births.

I am unable to compare these percentages with those of other areas because such figures do not seem to have been published for whole areas. The percentage of births by Caesarean in maternity hospitals shows wide variations due no doubt to the type of patient admitted and to other local conditions and without knowing these local conditions no useful comparison can be made.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Twelve notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year compared with 15 and 24 respectively in the two previous years. There were three cases each in the Rural District and Ryde, two each in Newport and Ventnor, one in Sandown-Shanklin and one in Cowes. Four cases occurred in nursing homes, two in St. Mary's Hospital, one in the County Hospital, one in the Frank James Hospital and four at home. Two of the cases which occurred at home were transferred to the Fairlee Infectious Diseases Hospital and two cases occurring in nursing homes were also transferred to Fairlee. These four patients remained there for periods varying between 14 and 21 days and averaging 18.7 days. They all recovered. In addition, one patient was transferred from a nursing home to the Isolation Hospital, 15 days after confinement but only remained there for one week and was not notifiable as a case of puerperal pyrexia.

Maternal Deaths.—Five deaths are classified as due to Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperal State. One of these was of an elderly woman from pulmonary embolism following an operation to correct a condition resulting from childbirth many years ago. Two were due to complications after caesarean section; one to heart disease and one to eclampsia. Three of the patients were in the County Hospital and the other two in a nursing home. They were all doctors' cases from the outset so no death occurred in the midwives' cases during the year. There was no death from puerperal sepsis.

Dental Treatment.—The number of expectant or nursing mothers receiving dental treatment during the year was 31 and 108 attendances were made by the mothers. This number includes a few of the mothers who applied for dental treatment during the previous year. The number of fresh applications for dentures during the year was 18 and in addition five mothers had fillings, extractions or gum treatment only. Another mother had her denture re-made. Because of the absence of a Dental Surgeon from the beginning of March until the end of October, arrangements were made for two mothers to be supplied with dental treatment and dentures through private dentists, at the expense of your Committee.

Of the 26 mothers who applied for dental treatment, your Committee required contributions towards the cost of the dentures in 17 and in the remaining nine, the financial circumstances were such that no contribution was required. Twenty-six individual dentures were supplied. Three children under five years of age attended at the clinics for dental treatment in addition to a few children under school age who were seen at the schools.

Infant Welfare Centres.—The work of these centres was continued as usual.

Visual Defects.—Three children under school age attended the eye clinics but these had all been seen previously and the spectacles previously supplied were found to be suitable. The child suffering from trachoma who was admitted to the White Oak Hospital, Swanley, Kent, in May, 1943, was discharged cured in May, 1944.

Care of "Premature" or Underweight Infants.—In March a Circular was issued by the Ministry of Health drawing attention to the need for getting more accurate information about infants whose weight at birth is five and a-half pounds or less as a preliminary to taking any necessary action for their well-being. Our health visitors were asked to give this information in respect of all these underweight babies born in 1944 and in this return the Ryde figures are included although it is a separate maternity and child welfare authority. It will be of interest to give a short analysis of these returns.

There were 78 such infants from 69 births. Nine were twin births, of which 16 babies are included because one was a still-born baby and one was over five and a-half pounds weight; and one birth of triplets. Seventy-eight is 5.6 per cent. of all the live births. Not all these births were premature—on the contrary a good many were known to have gone to full term but because dates are not always dependable the enquiry was limited to underweight infants. When the births were premature the cause of prematurity was unknown to the midwife as a rule, but in 17 cases these causes were given:—triplets in delicate mother; five cases twin birth; two cases illegitimacy with worry and two albuminuria and one each eclampsia, poor health of mother, asthma, febrile pyelitis, gastric 'flu with vomiting, thyro toxicosis, possibly shock due to air raid.

Of the 69 births, 32 or nearly half were first pregnancies, 17 second pregnancies and the remaining 20 varied up to a ninth pregnancy. The mother's age did not seem to have any significant influence but it is of interest to note that 24 of the births were in the two months January (11) and December (13) whereas the monthly average for the other 10 months was four and a-half. Our figures are too small, however, to allow of any general conclusion to be drawn from this.

Of the 78 underweight infants, 37 were boys and 41 girls. Fourteen of them died within the first four weeks of life (seven boys and seven girls) and the other 64 were then thriving. We know of three who died later and there may have been others who have died since. This is as far as our information goes.

Of the 14 dying within four weeks of birth, nine lived for 24 hours or less; two lived for two days and one each for three days, four days and 10 days respectively. The certified cause of death in these 14 was prematurity in 10 (syncope is stated in some of these), congenital heart disease three, haemorrhagic disease of the newborn one. Of the three who died later on, one was from broncho-pneumonia age two months; one from acute endocarditis age five months and one from meningitis age 13 months; these two last being two of the triplets, the first of them having survived one day only.

Twenty-seven infants weighed at birth between five and five and a-half pounds ; these all lived. Thirty-six weighed between four and five pounds ; nine of them died. Nine weighed three to four pounds ; two died. Four weighed two and a-half to three pounds ; one died. One weighed a little over two pounds and one a little less,—both died.

Thirty-five babies were born at home and 43 in hospital or nursing homes. All those born at home were nursed at home ; 31 of them lived and four died. This illustrates the competence of the district nurse midwives : indeed of 11 infants weighing between two-and-a-half and four-and-a-half pounds born and nursed at home, only two died and nine were alive and thriving at the end of four weeks. It is very doubtful whether this result could have been bettered had all these infants been taken to hospital for special attention.

Of the 43 babies born in hospital or nursing homes, 10 died but in considering this figure regard should be had to the fact that mothers with eclampsia or severe complications are usually confined in hospitals or nursing homes and these abnormal conditions affect materially the chances of survival of the infant.

The problems arising in the care of these small babies and the Ministry's suggestions of action which might be taken, were discussed with the district nurse midwives, and they agreed that while certain articles of equipment might be needed in individual cases, no general action by your Committee is called for. Your Committee is prepared to supply these items when they are needed and to admit the mother and babe to St. Mary's Hospital without delay when the home conditions are unsatisfactory. The provision of competent home help is particularly desirable in the case of these underweight infants.

Orthopaedic Treatment.—The orthopaedic clinics at the County Hall, Newport, and the Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde, have been continued with sessions at two monthly intervals. During the financial year 53 attendances were made by children under school age.

Seven children were admitted to Alton Hospital during the year ; five girls and two boys. Two of the girls suffered from paresis and deformity of the foot and the rest of the children, two boys and three girls, were admitted for treatment of cleft palate. They were all discharged during the year, their stay in hospital varying from five to ten weeks. The girl with paresis received four weeks' treatment and the other girl with deformity of the foot 18 weeks' treatment.

One girl who had been in Alton Hospital since June, 1943, on account of congenital dislocation of the hip, was discharged in November, 1944, i.e., after 17 months' treatment ; and a boy who was in hospital at the end of 1943 with deformity of the foot was discharged in April, 1944, after five months' treatment. There were no children under school age in hospital at the expense of your Committee at the end of the year 1944.

Four persons over school age also received treatment for orthopaedic defects during 1944 at the expense of your Committee. The lad referred to in last year's report who was then in Park Prewett Hospital on account of severe infantile paralysis was discharged on the 10th March, 1944, after a period of 14½ months' treatment. One girl over school age was admitted to Alton Hospital on the 21st January, 1944, on account of osteomyelitis and discharged on the 2nd July, i.e., after 23 weeks' treatment. Two lads suffering from slipped epiphysis were admitted to Alton on the 30th March and the 21st September. The first mentioned was discharged on the 31st August, i.e., after 22 weeks' treatment, but the latter was still in hospital at the end of the year.

The male patient who was admitted to the Ashridge Hospital, Berkhamsted, Herts., on December 30th, 1943, was discharged on the 23rd March, 1944.

War-Time Nurseries.—The Nursery Class at Cowes York Street School and the Nursery in St. John's Sunday School, Newport, remained open throughout the year, the numbers on the rolls at the end of the year being 21 and 19 respectively. The health of the children in these nurseries was good and there was no serious epidemic disease among them.

Infant Life Protection.—The changes in the Children Act Register during the 12 months ended 31st December, 1944, are as follows :—

On Register 1st January, 1944	...	...	...	26
Added during the year 1944	...	...	...	6
				—
				32
Removed during 1944	...	...	...	15
To care of relations	...	12		
Legally adopted	...	...	1	
Over 9 years of age	...	...	2	
				—
On Register 31st December, 1944	...	...		17
				—

These numbers are for the whole Island except the Borough of Ryde. During the year 95 visits of inspection were made to these children, 30 by the medical officers, 65 by the health visitors.